Alabama Chess Federation

ALABAMA CHESS *ANTICS*

April 2001 **$3.00**

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Editors Comment

Here is our latest issue of *ANTICS* at last. It is better on time than late, right? That will have to be the next issue. There are a few things left out of this issue that would have been in it had my computer hard drive hadn't given in. Oh the deep despair that sets in after your heart sinks from knowing that months of work is on a drive that will never live again. Of course, if I hadn't trusted my computer so completely and just backed-up each page on a floppy this wouldn't be and I wouldn't be sad yet to this day. You can bet that this issue that you will read is on a floppy and can be beckoned to the screen any time I wish. Still I doubt it. Dick Rhea used to make two back-ups of everything. He is looking very wise to me these days.

The State Cross Tables and Millbrook cross tables will be in the next issue. I hope I get the Queen of Hearts tables also.

I would be remiss if I didn't remind everyone that this magazine needs content. If you'll send a game, I'll type it. Just think of having your game or story in print for posterity. Any news from any event is welcome. It'd be nice if it were e-mailed in Msword but you don't have to. Hand write it and

ACF Officers

President, Bill Melvin

Vice-President, Caesar Lawrence

Secretary & Treasurer, Vasha Rosenblum

Scholastic Vice-President, Lamar Causey

ANTICS Editor, Jeff Lake

ChessKid Antics Editor, Dale Robbins

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Roy Stanton

Richard W. Ellis

Robert Rieves

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Bill Melvin

The game of chess has been in existence in its current form for hundreds of years. During this time, we've seen a number of substantial changes in modern civilization. The industrial revolution changed our agrarian society. The advent of the automobile changed transportation. We learned to fly around the world, harness electricity, communicate at light speed, split the atom and unravel the human genetic code. While these and other incredible discoveries were taking place, the rules for the game of chess stayed essentially the same.

During the late 1990's the internet gained critical mass as a worldwide communication mechanism. Chess fits this new medium like a glove. The ability to play/study chess over the internet will forever revolutionize the game. There is no going back. This is wonderful for the popularity of our game. Never before in the history of our game has more chess been played than today. The prayers of those who desire to popularize chess with the masses have been answered in full. With the help of technology the dream has been accomplished.

Past progress has involved a price to pay for those using outdated methods. The automobile spelled the end of the horse and buggy. Large farms wiped out the small farmers. Video killed the radio star. Modernization often involves obsolescence.

It isn't hard to guess what I'm leading into. The year is 2001. Traditional chess organizations such as FIDE, the USCF, and even the ACF are accustomed to the "old way" of playing chess. While all of the organizations will try to adapt to the permanently changed environment, the transition is anything but smooth. Organizations that are not flexable enough to adapt will die out. That could mean the end of FIDE, the USCF and countless other national and state organizations. Already there is talk among chess leaders over whether or not the USCF is even relevant in 2001. The President of the Louisiana and Mississippi chess organizations recently circulated a letter of intent to break all ties with the USCF. He proposes a statewide rating system and avoiding the perceived corruptness of the USCF altogether. Such radical thoughts are not his alone.

Take a deep breath and relax. Even though we can't even agree on who the real World Champion is at present, our game has never been more secure in its position. The sheer numbers of chess players guarantees the popularity of chess for at least our lifetime. If the USCF cannot adapt to the new environment then it may not survive. Even this is acceptable. Another entity, such as the Internet Chess Club, will step forward to fill the void. Chess will continue to be played, rated, advertised and enjoyed.

Continued on page 4

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Bill Melvin

Tournaments. Right now, many of our "Over-The-Board players" have defected to the internet. In the future, organizers may be pleasantly surprised by "internet players" discovering Over-The-Board chess.

These are exciting times of discovery and uncertainty. Let's adapt to the new age and learn to appreciate the benefits. There is no going back.

Anatomy of a Slump

By Bill Melvin

Slumps. They happen. I'm in my worst one in memory now. Here is a summary of recent events:
Atlanta, late 2000: I lose to three straight experts.
Atlanta, early 2001: I lose three games in a row.
2001 Huntsville City Championship: I have a lost position against a Class B player and a Class C player (saving both). I drop a piece on move seven against an expert and lose.
2001 Queen of Hearts: I get lost positions against a Class B player, a Class C player and have a resignable position in 14 moves against a Senior Master. Even though I still manage 4-1 and clear second, my play is pathetic.

What causes slumps?

Slumps have many causes. Maybe you're being careless. Maybe your confidence is low. Maybe you've made some changes to your game that didn't work out as planned. Maybe you've just been unlucky and your opponents are playing extra well. While good results tend to lead to more confidence and more good results, bad results tend to propagate bad results and less confidence.

What to do during a slump?

Break out! Don't stay in a slump forever. Change your attitude. Take a break from chess if you need one. Review basic chess fundamentals. Review your analysis technique. Most bad move are the result of poor analysis. Concentrate on identifying critical positions and use your time wisely where it is needed. Past results are ancient history. The first day out of your slump is today. Ignore your rating. When you start playing at your old strength your old rating will return. With interest! You'll be stronger for having endured another slump.

Slumps are part of chess. We all go through them. Don't take it personally. Step back, take an objective look at your game, make changes as necessary, then charge full speed ahead. I plan to take my own advice and hope that my next Antics article contains a section entitled: "What to do when you're beating everyone in sight!"

Alabama Chess Federation Meeting
29th Annual Queen of Hearts Chess Tournament
8:00 A.M. Sunday, February 18, 2001
AUM Montgomery, Al.

Agenda:

1. Review of upcoming State Tournaments (Scholastic Individual and Scholastic Team).
2. Check for bids for State Championship (Birmingham?).
3. Treasurers report.
4. Discussion/Vote on membership categories and dues changes.

Upcoming Scholastic Tournaments

The State Individual Championship, organized by Shafer Gaston, is to be held at Clark School on March 24th 2001, and the Team Championships, organized by Tim Yahr, At Fairhope High School on April 7. Concern was expressed that there was no flyer for the Individual Championship on the web. Several members have received packets of flyers, but Dr. Sloan has not received an email flyer for the web site. In response to an inquiry from Lamar Causey it explained that the tournament is only for residents of Alabama.

Bids for State Championship

A call for bids for the state championship was made. There were no bids presented.

Minutes

The minutes from the May 28, 2000 meeting and the September 3, 2000 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurers' report

START BALANCE $2,798.80

INCOME

10-23-2000	$ 340.00	
12-12-2000	$ 355.00	Grade Level Championship Scholastic Memberships
2-16-2001	$ 255.00	51 Scholastic Memberships
2-16-2001	$ 50.00	2 Affiliate and 2 Regular memberships
	$1000.00	

EXPENSES

10-23-2000	Publisher Software to use for publishing ANTICS.	140.39
11-10-2000	Bulk mail for Chess Kids Antics	47.10
11-10-2000	Roll of 100 stamps to mail membership cards	33.00
12-14-2000	Dixie Chess Tour payments to winners	163.60

ACF meeting continued on page 6

ACF meeting continued from page 5

1-02-2001	Huntsville Chess Club reimburse $ support of Schol. Antics	90.00
1-04-2001	Alabama Power Company for printing ChessKid Antics	250.00
1-19-2001	Jeff Lake for printing ANTICS	209.72
2-19-2001	Jeff Lake for mailing ANTICS	55.00
2-07-2001	Postage for Chess Kid Antics	47.89
		$996.70

CURRENT BALANCE	3,798.80
	-996.70
	$2,602.10

ACF Types and Number of Members

Regular Members	87
Scholastic Memberships	233
Life Members	6
Affiliates	10

Discussion/Vote on Membership categories and dues changes:
There was discussion of putting members names on the ACF website. The conclusion was that it would be useful for checking expiration dates, and no person information such as addresses would be posted. Secretary/Treasurer will email list of members, type of membership and expiration dates to webmaster in text form. The list will be updated monthly.

The membership discussed an increase in Regular member dues. The increase in cost of publishing Antics seems to consume the entire membership fee. A breakout of how dues are spent—What percent goes to printing, postage, labels, etc. was requested. Rhodes mentioned that Georgia Federation is able to publish 6 issues per year for a membership fee of $10. Caesar thinks it has gone up to $12. Lamar wants clarification of expenses before raising dues. It was pointed out that the number of issues published per year is of less importance than timely publication of chess information. Members insist of specific dates for ANTICS to be in the mail whether it is 1 page or 20. The problem is confounded by the need to depend on volunteers to get information to the editor, prepare the copy, publish and mail each issue with no consequences for late issues. It was that the next issue target both the Space City and the Vulcan and that it be in the mail no later that March 15th. Jerry Wheeler moved that the President dictate dates for publishing ANTICS and inform the Editor, Jeff Lake. Bob Reeves seconds and the motion carries.

ACF meeting continued on page 7

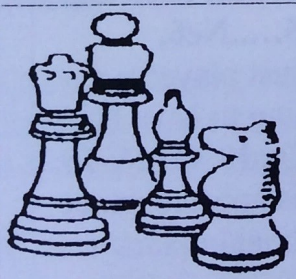
ACF meeting continued from page 6

Attention was turned to increasing Scholastic membership dues. At present rates, the cost of one issue of *ChessKid Antics* is $1.50. This must change as members currently pay $5 dues. If dues are not raised, what alternatives could fund a publication? It was suggested that state championship organizers contribute from tournament receipts, or that organizers look for sponsors. If dues are raised, it would be possible to give some financial support to the State Champion for attending the Denker Tournament. Increases of $1 to $5 were presented for discussion. Increase to $6 did not solve much of the problem and would probably need to be raised again in the near future. It was moved and seconded that Scholastic dues be raised to $10 per year beginning in January of 2002. The motion passed. Three Scholastic organizers abstained from voting. In addition, a less expensive publisher for *ChessKid Antics* will be found.

The meeting was adjourned to begin the 9:30 round of the Queen of Hearts Tournament.

Submitted by Vasha Rosenblum Secretary/Treasurer

CORRECTION AND CLAIRIFICATION; The **KELLY HILL OPEN** is not dead nor cancelled. This Editor had been misinformed. I got a call from Lamar Causey explaining thusly. Quote " I received my Antics today and thought you would like to know that the Kelly Hill Tournament was not cancelled due to lack of interest but the tournament was moved to a better site in Columbus, Ga.. The Phoenix City Chess Club moved the tournament away from Ft. Benning in order to give it a face lift. The Tournament was renamed the Belvederre Park Open. It is still being held the last Saturday of the month. Instead of the clock radio prize format, first prize in the open section was $70.00. Muhammad was the winner this month. (Ed. Note; January that is.)



A. J. Goldsby I

U.S.C.F. Life-Master

Chess Instructor • Chess Lessons • Chess Coach

On-staff of The Creative Learning Center

Queen of Hearts Game

By Bill Melvin

During my recent bad form I've been saving more than my share of poor positions. I'll dedicate this next game to the TV game show Survivor. Sometimes surviving to hang on a few more moves is all that you can do in a lost position.

Queen of Hearts, February 18, 2001
Round 4 board 3: Open section; 35/90 sd/30
Jerry Wheeler (1565) Bill Melvin (2200)

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. D4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 e5 5. Nb3 Nf6

Since 6. Nc3 Bb4 usually leads to an easy game for black, I was confident that everything was going according to plan. I had this same position in the Huntsville City Championship a couple of weeks earlier and suggested 6.....Bg5 to my opponent after the game. Coincidence or not, Jerry now played... **6. Bg5 Be7.** Black had a lot of options and I didn't want to play 6.....Be7 when the bishop might be better served on b4. I couldn't find a waiting move that didn't waste a move or involve the f8 bishop. Best was probably just 6.....h6. Instead, I decide to prepare to steel a pawn. **7. Nc3 Nxe4?** This does not work out for me, but it does "win"a pawn. After the forcing variations 8. Nxe4 Bxg5, 9. Nxg5 Qxg5 or 8. Bxe7 Nxc3, 9. Bxd8 Nxd1, 10. Rxd1 Nxd8 black emerges with an extra pawn. Chess is a tricky game and merely counting material proves costly.

8. Nxe4 Bxg5 9. Nd6! Kf8 10. Bc4 Qe7!

If you say you like blacks position then you are lying! *Next column*

Black temporarily holds f7 as 11. Nxf7 Qb4 seems to give black at least an equal position after 13. Nxg5 or 13. Nxh8. 11. Bxf7 doesn't lead to an edge for white after 11. Nd4, 12. Nxd4 exd4, 13. Qe2 Qxe2, 14. Kxe2 Be7. White wisely decides to add more pieces to the attack.

11. Qd5 Nd8. The computer seems to prefer 11. Nb4 here. I was worried about 12. Qxf7 Qxf7, 13. Nxf7 Nxc2, 14. Kd1 Nxal. It now appears that this would have worked out for black. My instinct was to guard against the attack instead of counterattacking. To be honest, 11.....Nb4 wasn't even a candidate move. **12. Nc5 Bf6?!** At the very least I should have played 12.... g6 first. White now has the option of playing 13. Nf5 Qe8, 14. Nd6 with a draw by repetition. My move also allows white to castle long. **13. 0-0-0 g6, 14. Nde4....** The knights best square was clearly d6 where it divided the black army in two. This is a critical position for white. White can play for mate with 14. Rhf1 or 14. F4. Also tempting is 14. Ncxb7 Bxb7, 15. Nxb7 Nxb7, 16. Qxb7 Rd8, 17. Qxa7 where white is up a solid pawn and should win.

14.....Kg7, 15. Rd3..... This move really doesn't improve the position of the rook and makes it more of a target. **15.....Ne6, 16.g3.....**Incredibly, white just played a defensive move! Black is starting to have hope of survival. **16.....d6, 17. Qxd6 Qxd6, 18. Rxd6 Be7, 19. Rxe6?!** This appears unnecessary. During the game, I thought black was winning a piece after 19. Rd5 Nxc5, 20. Nxc5 b6, but I missed 21. Nd7 when white is doing just fine. **19.....Bxe6, 20. Nxe6 fxe6, 21. Bxe6 Rad8, 22. C3 Rhe8, 23. Bg4 b5, 24. Rd1 Rxd1, 25. Kxd1 b4, 26. C4?..** .....Notice how strong the knight is on the e4 square. *Continued on page 9*

Continued from page 8 ***Queen of Hearts Game***

It holds f2 and can be protected by the bishop or king. White should be able to play 26. Kc2 and build a fortress to hold a draw. Jerry may have figured that he was "losing anyway" and didn't appreciate his strong defensive position. **26.....Rd8, 27. Kc2 Rd4, 28. f3 Rxc4, 29. Kb3 Rd4, 30. h4?**.....Don't ever give up! White can still try 30. Kc2 and building a fortress. The rook clumsy trying to penetrate white's position. The game may still be drawable**.....30.....h5, 31.resigns**. 0—1 The pawn loss after 31. Bh3 Rd3, 32. Kc2 Rxf3, would be more than white's position could bear.

Another Q of H Game

By Bill Melvin

Miles had a good tournament at the Queen of Hearts facing the top four rated players in the reserve section and beating three of them. He is very alert tactically and developing his intuitive sense. Learning tradeoffs between time, space and material is important for a developing chess player. The following game is a textbook demonstration on how to attack.

Queen of Hearts, February 18, 2001
Round 3 board 3 reserve section, 35/90 sd/30
Miles Melvin (1418) James Bowen (1596)

1. e4 e5, 2. Nf3 Nc6, 3. d4 exd4, 4. Bc4 h6? This was Miles's reaction when first faced with this variation as black. The phantom threat of Nf3-g5 makes black feel obligated to guard the g5 square. Better is 4..... Nf6 and black can hold the complications. Miles' repertoire is *continued in next column* deliberately tricky. **5. c3 dxc3, 6. Nxc3 Bb4, 7. o-o d6.** White is usually well-advised not to waste time with castling in such sharp positions. Every move gives black the chance to set up a defense. **8. Qb3. Qd7, Rd1 Bxc3, 10. bxc3 Qe7.** Black misses the chance for 10.....Na5 to exchange off the powerful white light-squared bishop. **11. Ba3 Na5, 12. Qb5 Nc6, 13. e5 a6, 14. Qa4 Bd7, 15. exd6 cxd6, 16.bxd6 Qd8, 17. Qb3 Qf6, 18. Ne5 Nxe5, 19. Bxe5 Qg6, 20. Rxd7 resigns. 1—0**
Black loses material and enters a mating net after 20.....Kxd7, 21. Qxb7.

Tournament Announcement
BI-CITY CHAMPIONSHIP 2001

Belvedere Park Recreation Center
726 Parkwood Dr.
Coulmbus, Ga. 31907
4-RD SWISS SYSTEM
Individual USCF rated, non rated tournament and Scholastic Rated.
Guaranteed prize fund; $600 in 3 sections
Open section; Open to all. !st $150 2nd $100, Class A/B/D/(E and Unrated) $50 each.
Non rated section; 1st$50 2nd$30,3rd$20.
Scholastic USCF rated; Trophies to top 7.
EF; $30 Adult / $5 for scholastic section
Free 1/2 pt bye any round, must request in advance of previous round.
USCF mem.rqd. Except in nonrated sect.
USCF/ACF/GA memberships available.
Saturday May 12, 2001
Time control; G/60 min
Registration; 9:30 til 10:30 eastern time
Rounds; 11, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30
Call **Lamar Causey**

ACF CALENDAR

APRIL 2001

14TH Capablanca Open - Birmingham - Steven b Dowd .

21-22 Space City Open—Huntsville-Gerald Weeler

26-29 SuperNationals Scholastic in Kansas City, Mo.

28 Belvedere Park Last Saturday Open in Columbus, Ga.
Lamar Causey;

MAY 2001

6 First Sunday Quads in Birmingham
Kenneth Sloan;

12 Bi-City Championship
Lamar Causey;

26 Belvedere Park Last Saturday Open contact Lamae Causey

JUNE 2001

3 First Sunday Quads in Birmingham

30 Belvedere Park last Saturday Open in Columbus, Ga. CONTACT Lamar Causey

JULY 2001

1 First Sunday Quads in Birmingham contact Kenneth Sloan

AUGUST 2001

5 First Sunday Quads in Birmingham contact Kenneth Sloan

5-17 US Open in Framingham, Ma.

SEPTEMBER 2001

1-3 ACF State Championship location to be determined

OCTOBER 2001

7 First Sunday Quads in Birmingham contact Kenneth Sloan

NOVEMBER 2001

4 First Sunday Quads in Birmingham contact Kenneth Sloan

DECEMBER 2001

2 First Sunday Quads in Birmingham contact Kenneth Sloan

SPACE CITY OPEN

University of Alabama in Huntsville
UAH University Center
Huntsville, Alabama

NOTE: CHECK HCC WEBSITE (URL AT BOTTOM OF PAGE) FOR FINAL DATA

DATE: April 21st & 22nd, 2001

DETAILS: 5 Round Swiss. USCF Rated. A Heart of Dixie Event. 20 Grand Prix Points. NC, NS, W

TIME CONTROL: 40 moves in 90 minutes, SD in 30 minutes

REGISTRATION: For advance registration, send entry form and fees to:
Huntsville Chess Club

On-site 4/21, 8:00 to 10:00am, at UAH University Center.

ROUNDS: Saturday 10:30am, 2:30pm, 7:00pm and Sunday 9:00am, 2:00pm

MEMBERSHIP: All participants must be USCF members. ACF membership required of Alabama residents. Memberships available on site.

ENTRY FEE: Open $40 and Reserve $30 if received by April 18th. $50 and $40 on-site. Make checks payable to the Huntsville Chess Club Include USCF ID# and name as shown on USCF ID card.

PRIZES: All prizes GUARANTEED!

Open Section
(open to all)

1st	$1000/Trophy
2nd	$ 600
Expert	$ 250
U2000	$ 150

Reserve Section
(under 1800)

1st	$500/Trophy
2nd	$250
3rd	$125
Class C	$100
Class D	$ 75
Class E	$ 50
Class F/G	$ 35
Class H/I/J	$ 25
Unrated	$ 25

Special Participant Prize
Top non-Scholastic Woman $100

Accommodations: Most Convenient Hotel: Tom Bevil Conference Center and Hotel, 550 Sparkman Dr. Phone: (256) 721-9428. Weekend Rate (w/o Tax). Ask for Chess Tournament Rate: $?? Single or Double; King $??; Hotel is adjacent to University Center.

Directions: UAH is located in the Southeast corner of the intersection of University Drive and Sparkman Drive. The campus is accessible via University or Sparkman. Travelers arriving via I-565 take Exit 15.

INFORMATION: Gerald Wheeler or HCC Calendar

The Alabama Chess Federation (ACF) is the United States Chess Federation (USCF) affiliate for the state of Alabama. Membership is open to any interested individual or organization by paying the annual membership dues. Please support Alabama Chess by joining or renewing your annual membership in ACF. Benefits of membership includes a subscription to the quarterly publication ***ANTICS*** and participation in ACF sanctioned Chess tournaments and other benefits.

ACF Membership Application

Regular $10 Scholastic (under 19) $5 Affiliate $15

SEND: Name.....
Address.....
City, State, Zip.....
USCF ID # (if applicable).....
Phone and/or e-mail address.....

To: Vasha Rosenblum,

Alabama Chess ***ANTICS***
C/o Jeff Lake, Editor/publisher